

# **2009 ART COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

## **General Guidelines**

- The competition is open to high school students only.
- Artwork categories are as follows:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, charcoal, ink markers
  - Collage: must be two-dimensional
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography
- In order to allow an artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary:
  - Piece must be two-dimensional
  - Each piece must be **no larger** than 30in x 30in including the frame
  - No more than 4 inches in depth
  - Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.
  - Artwork must arrive in Washington by the time specified and framed to the appropriate framing guidelines (see below)
- Artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- A copy of the Student Release Form, signed both the teacher and the student, must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.
- Each entry must be an original in concept, design and execution and may not violate and U.S. copyright laws.
  - Note:** Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo, painting, graphic, advertisement or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.
- The final decision regarding suitability of all artworks for the exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol.

**Framing Guidelines – Please Note** – Our office will take care of framing the winning piece. Pieces **should not** come to our office already framed but the students should consider these guidelines when creating their piece so that it will be appropriate size, etc. for framing.

- All works, **when framed**, should be **no larger** than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame.
- Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No “snap on” frames with glass are to be used.

- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the right and the left of the sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between the hooks.
- Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc. to the front of the piece or under the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is up.
- As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry. Any hardship cases should be assisted at the district level; works can no longer be framed by the Architect of the Capitol. – **As already stated, our office will handle framing the winning piece.**
- As copy of the Student Release Form **must be** attached to the back of the artwork along with an adhesive label as shown.
- Please use the largest label you have and affix it to the top, center of the backside of the artwork above the Student Release Form (see below).

Member Name: State and District: Title of Piece: Medium: Student Name: Student Address and Phone Number:
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#### **Suitability Guidelines:**

- As outlined in these guidelines, the final decision regarding suitability for exhibition in the Capitol is left to a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in the Capitol.
- Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.